



Nature of Occupational Mobility of the Tribals in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha from Agriculture to Non-Agriculture Sectors

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ABSTRACT

The tribal people as the dwellers of hills and forests have unproductive and uneconomic holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, traditional skills and primitive implements along with land alienation indebtedness. Their economy revolving around hunting, collecting, shifting cultivation and plough work. Due to lack of sufficient scope for livelihood and deterioration of natural resources on which the tribal people depend much for their hereditary occupation, they migrate to other occupations or other places in search of job. The present study was carried out with the objectives to analyse the nature of the occupational mobility from the agriculture to non-agricultural activities. The study was conducted in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha purposefully in which the tribals occupy 58.72 % of the total population. Four blocks were selected randomly each one from four sub divisions. Fifteen tribal people were selected from each village as respondents randomly from twelve villages, three from each block totaling to sample size of 180. The result showed that majority (72.22 %) of the respondents had crop production as their primary traditional hereditary as well as farming (35.0%) as their primary occupation. On the basis of the study it is suggested that literacy level should be enhanced among the tribal people to increase their efficiency and better understanding of the scientific agriculture which can be implemented for checking mobility of the tribal people from agriculture to non-agriculture sector. There should be more investment and creation of employment opportunity in agriculture sector to make it more remunerative which will also develop more number of entrepreneurs among tribal people.

Key Words: Agriculture, Education, Hereditary occupation, Mobility, Secondary occupation, Tribal.

INTRODUCTION

The tribal people as the dwellers of hills and forests are surviving since time immemorial. Most of tribals have unproductive and uneconomic holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, traditional skills and primitive implements along with land alienation indebtedness. Majority of cultivators use land only in kharif season and migrate to other places for alternative occupation like brickwork, construction work and industrial purposes during lean period. As there are various agencies working for the development of tribal people including line departments. Though due to intervention of different extension activities, the situation has been improving, still there are some

areas of concern to be looked into specifically for the overall development. Due to lack of sufficient scope for livelihood and deterioration of natural resources on which the tribal people depend much for their hereditary occupation, they migrate to other occupation or other places in search of job.

Karade (2009) described occupation is one of the best indicators of class, because people tend to agree on the relative prestige they attach to similar jobs. The mobility of the tribal people mainly depends on the availability of work/job, job satisfaction, relative economic advantage etc. The consequences of occupational mobility can be either positive or negative and are not restricted by

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Table.1 Distribution of the respondents according to their Age. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Young (18-35 years)	103	57.22
2	Middle (36-50 years)	46	25.56
3	Old (more than 50 years)	31	17.22

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their category/caste of tribal. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Santal	61	33.89
2	Bhumij	36	20.00
3	Kolha	22	12.22
4	Bathudi	18	10.00
5	Bhuyan	16	08.89
6	Ho	09	05.00
7	Munda	09	05.00
8	Sabar	09	05.00

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their Educational Status. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Illiterate	36	20.00
2	Primary Level	40	22.22
3	Middle school Level	33	18.33
4	Matriculation	40	22.22
5	Higher secondary	18	10.00
6	Graduation	06	03.33
7	Post-Graduation and above	04	02.22
8	Any technical degree	03	01.66

the direction of the movement. Giraldo (1993) observed that a higher educational level in the younger generations would also reinforce migration because of lacking opportunities at home; these potential migrants would continue to flow to unskilled and semi-skilled markets abroad. Chattopadhyay and Khan (2004) stated that occupational mobility dealt with the movements of individuals over job categories during their employment periods. Since the time interval between successive job changes was a random variable. Shniper (2005) found that when economic conditions were favorable, individuals might have more opportunities to change jobs to earn more money, did the kind of work they prefer, or reduced their commuting time. Conversely, when economic conditions were less favorable,

fewer opportunities with such desirable characteristics might be available.

Giuseppe and Vella (2008) provided evidence that high unemployment somewhat offsets the role of individual worker considerations in the choice of changing career. Occupational mobility declines with age, family commitments and education, but when unemployment was high these negative effects were weaker, and reversed for college education. Ray and Majumder (2010) indicated strong inter generational stickiness in both educational achievement and occupational distribution among the scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs), as well as occupational mobility was lower than educational mobility, indicating that

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Table 4. Distribution of the respondents according to their Land holding. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
A	Land holding		
1	Less than 0.4 ha	67	37.22
2	Within 0.4-0.8 ha	56	31.12
3	Within 0.8-2.0 ha	42	23.33
4	More than 2.0 ha	15	08.33
B	Annual Family Income		
5	More than 1 lakh	22	12.22
6	75,000-1 lakh	09	05.00
7	50,000-75,000	39	21.66
8	25,000-50,000	74	41.11
9	Less than 25,000	36	20.00
C	Farming Experience		
10	Less than 5 years	74	41.11
11	5-10 years	47	26.11
12	11-15 years	09	05.00
13	16-20 years	19	10.55
14	More than 20 years	31	17.22

Table 5. Distribution of the respondents according to their extent of social participation. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Organisation	Extent of Participation			
		Very often	Often	Occasionally	Never
		Number	Number	Number	Number
1	Village level society	76(42.23)	73(40.55)	31(17.22)	0
2	Block level society	13(07.22)	45(25.00)	73(40.55)	49(27.23)
3	District level society	03(01.66)	07(03.88)	42(23.33)	128(71.11)
4	State level society	0	0	13(07.22)	167(92.78)
5	National level society	0	0	03(01.66)	177(98.34)

**Figures shown in the parentheses indicates the percentage*

educational progress was not being transformed into occupational improvement. Reddy (2012) observed that majority families (66.67 %) of Alayabad Tanda depend on the cattle-rearing as their main source of living, while most of the families (62.35 %) at the other Tanda primarily depended on cultivation for their livelihood. An analysis of mobility of occupation during the last

three generations revealed that among the Sugalis of Alayabad Tanda there was no much change in their traditional occupation i.e., pastoralism from the generation of grandfather to that of ego. On the contrary, he found that at Lakshmaiahkunta Tanda there was a gradual decline of traditional occupation which was of great significance.

Table 6. Distribution of the respondents according to their Cosmopolitaness (n=180)

Sr. No.	Place	Extent of Visit			
		Very often	Often	Occasionally	Never
		Number	Number	Number	Number
1	Visit to block level office	43(23.88)	58(32.22)	70(38.88)	09(05.00)
2	Visit to district level office	10(05.55)	24(13.33)	58(32.22)	88(48.88)
3	Visit to state level office	0	05(02.77)	38(21.11)	137(76.12)
4	Visit to national level office	0	0	02(01.11)	178(98.89)
5	Visit to KVK	15(08.33)	09(05.00)	27(15.00)	129(71.67)
6	Visit to nearby city	13(07.22)	75(41.66)	70(38.88)	22(12.22)

**Figures shown in the parentheses indicates the percentage*

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha purposefully as the district enriched with most number of tribal people. The tribals occupy 58.72 % of the total population. The districts and sub divisions were selected purposively where as random sampling technique was followed to select blocks, villages and respondents. Four blocks were selected randomly each one from four sub divisions like Shamakhunta from Baripada Sadar, Kaptipada from Kaptipada, Bijatala from Rairangpur and Jasipur from Karanjia. Three villages were selected randomly from each block. Likewise twelve villages in total were selected randomly. Fifteen tribal people were selected from each village as respondents randomly totaling sample size of 180.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that most of the respondents (57.22 %) belonged to young age group (between 18- 35 years) followed by medium age group (25.56 %) whereas only 17.22 per cent represented to old age group (above 50 years).

It was found that majority of the respondents belonged to Santal caste (33.89%) followed by Bhumij (20 %), Kolha (12.22%), Bathudi (10%), Bhuyan (8.89 %) and 5 per cent

each to Ho, Munda and Sabar. It was also conforming to the demographic figure about the distribution of the tribal in the district where Santal and Bhumij caste are predominant.

Education is the way of life for socio-economic development The data revealed that majority of the respondents made their education up to primary level and matriculation level (22.22 % each) followed by illiterates (20%), middle school level (18.33%), higher secondary level (10 %), graduation level (3.33%) and post graduate level (2.22 %). Only few (1.66 %) had technical degree. Thus, it was evident that most of the respondents had very poor educational background.

It was found that the majority of the respondents belonged to marginal land holding category (37.22 %) followed by 31.12 per cent having land holding in between 0.4-0.8 ha and 23.33 per cent in between 0.8-2.0 ha. This clearly justified as most of the tribal people were marginal and small farmers. Majority of the respondents had annual family income in the range Rs 25,000 to 50,000 (41.11 %) followed by in the range of 50,000 to 75,000 (21.66 %), less than 25,000 (20 %), more than one lakh (12.22%) and 75,000 to 1.0 lakhs (5 %). Further, it was found that majority of the respondents had total farming experience less than 5 years (41.11%) followed by 5 to 10

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years (26.11 %), more than 20 years (17.22 %), 16 to 20 years (10.55 %) and 11 to 15 years (5.0 %). Hence, it was observed as either most of the respondents were young farmers or some were engaged in other vocations.

It was observed that all the respondents had participation in village level society out of which 42.22 per cent, 40.55 per cent and 17.22 per cent had very often, often and occasional participation, respectively. Among them only 7.22 per cent and 1.66 per cent had participated occasionally in state level and national level society respectively. Majority of the respondents (71.11%) never participated in the district level society. They had fairly involvement in the block level societies where 40.55 per cent occasionally and 25 per cent often participated in these societies.

Cosmopolitanness influences their socio-economic status and mobility of the tribal people. It was found that only 1.11 per cent respondents had visited to national level office occasionally as well as only 2.77 per cent respondents often visited and 21.11 per cent occasionally visited to state level office. From the study it gave impression that 43 per cent and 10 per cent respondents visited to block level office and district level office very often. Out of total respondents 5.0 per cent, 48.88 per cent, 76.12 per cent and 98.89 per cent never visited to block level, district level, state level and national level office any time respectively. It was evident that most of the tribal people had contact within the block level office and also they were somehow access to the district level office whereas there was very poor linkage with the state and national level office. Majority of the respondents (41.66 %) often and 38.88 percent occasionally visited to the nearby city. In that place, 12.22 percent never visited to the city, but 7.22 per cent were very regular visitors of the city. Among the tribal people under survey, 8.33 percent and 5.00 per cent visited to KVK very often and often whereas 15.00 per cent occasionally visited but 71.67 per cent of the respondents were never visited the KVK.

It was clearly indicated (Table 7) that majority (72.22 %) of the respondents had crop

production as their primary traditional hereditary occupation whereas collection of minor forest produce as the secondary traditional hereditary occupation which constituted around 26.66 per cent. It was also found that other primary occupations of tribal people under study were wage earning (11.66%), animal husbandry (7.22%), minor forest produce collection (6.66%) and priest work (2.22 %) whereas other secondary occupations were wage earning (25.55%), animal husbandry (22.22%), crop production (20.0 %) and household value added product (5.55 %).

Majority of the respondents had farming (35.0%) as their primary occupation followed by wage earner (20.55 %). Only 7.22 percent respondents had government service and no one had primary occupation on fishery, minor forest produce collection and ritual works. It was also noted from the table that majority of the respondents had animal husbandry as secondary occupation which constituted 35.0 per cent followed by farming (23.88 %), wage earner (16.66 %) and skilled work (14.44 %) like carpentry, masonry work, painting job etc. The finding pointed out that though the tribal people are diverting towards multifarious activities, still most of respondents have farming as their occupation either primary or secondary. Due to changing scenario no one is engaging on some of their traditional occupation like collection of minor forest produce, ritual works.

The findings showed that, majority of the respondents (35.0 %) had fully engaged in the farming sector more than six months in a year whereas 38.88 per cent respondents were engaged less than half of the year in that vocation. Other major area in which the respondents were engaged was the occupation of wage earning in which 20.55 per cents were engaged more than six years whereas 16.66 per cent were involved less than six years. The tribal people also had an affinity to animal husbandry occupation in which 6.66 per cent were fully engaged and 35.0 per cent respondents were partially engaged. The respondents were engaged in the sectors like government service, private/NGO service, industrial sector, political job and contract job those constituted 7.22 , 5.0 , 5.0 , 1.66 and 5.0 per

Table 7. Distribution of respondents according to their traditional hereditary occupation. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Occupations	Primary		Secondary	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Farming	130	72.22	36	20.00
2	Animal Husbandry	13	07.22	40	22.22
3	Minor Forest Produce Collection	12	06.66	48	26.66
4	House hold value added products	0	00.00	10	05.55
5	Priest work	04	02.22	0	00.00
6	Wage earning	21	11.66	46	25.55

Table 8. Distribution of respondents according to their present occupation. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Sectors	Primary		Secondary	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Govt. service	13	07.22	0	0
2	Private/NGO service	09	05.00	0	0
3	Business	07	03.88	03	01.66
4	Farming	63	35.00	43	23.88
5	Animal husbandry	12	06.66	63	35.00
6	Fishery	0	0	15	08.33
7	Collection of minor forest produce	0	0	0	0
8	House hold products	09	05.00	0	0
9	Industrial sector	09	05.00	0	0
10	Wage earner	37	20.55	30	16.66
11	Political work	03	01.66	0	0
12	Contract job	09	05.00	0	0
13	Skilled work	09	05.00	26	14.44
14	Ritual works	0	0	0	0

cent, respectively. It was interesting to note that no one was engaged in collection of minor forest product and ritual works.

It was observed that mobility of the respondents according to their occupation was highest in case of agricultural labourer (53.88 %) followed by labour in construction work.

It was amply evident that all the independent variables (socio-economic traits) together had explained 80 % of the variance

embedded with the dependant variable *i.e.*, nature of occupational mobility.

CONCLUSION

Although the majority of population in the state still depends on agriculture directly or indirectly, the state economy revolves around the agriculture sector. But in a changing trend there has been diversifying and shift moving away from the agricultural sector to non-farm sectors. On the basis of the finding of the study following points

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Table 9. Distribution of respondents according to their nature of occupational mobility. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Mobility to Sectors	Nature of mobility			
		More than 6 months/year		Less than 6 months/year	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Govt. service	13	07.22	0	0
2	Private/NGO service	09	05.00	0	0
3	Business	07	03.88	03	01.66
4	Farming	63	35.00	70	38.88
5	Animal husbandry	12	06.66	63	35.00
6	Fishery	03	01.66	12	06.66
7	Collection of minor forest produce	0	0	0	0
8	Household produces	06	03.33	03	01.66
9	Industrial sector	09	05.00	0	0
10	Wage earner	37	20.55	30	16.66
11	Political work	03	01.66	0	0
12	Contract job	09	05.00	0	0
13	Skilled work	09	05.00	36	14.44
14	Ritual works	0	0	0	0

Table 10. Distribution of respondents' mobility according to their type of occupation. (n=180)

Socio economic traits	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	't' value	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.078	0.368		5.649	0.000
Age (x ₁)	-0.306	0.112	-0.174	-2.740	0.007
Education (x ₃)	-0.661	0.063	-0.811	-10.470	0.000
Land holding (x ₇)	-0.205	0.048	-0.480	-4.251	0.000
Annual family income (x ₁₂)	-0.550	0.146	-0.498	-3.767	0.000
Farming experience (x ₁₃)	0.015	0.011	0.108	1.411	0.160
Social participation (x ₁₅)	0.225	0.056	0.383	4.022	0.000
Cosmopolitaness (x ₁₆)	0.097	0.050	0.213	1.958	0.052
Dependent Variable (y): Occupational mobility					
R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
0.895	0.800	0.780	0.632		

Table 11. Multiple regression analysis of nature of occupational mobility with the socio-economic traits of respondents.

Sr. No.	Type of work	Extent of mobility					
		Always		Sometimes		Never	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	Agricultural labourer	97	53.88	0	0	83	46.11
2	Labour in industrial sector	09	05.00	0	0	171	95.00
3	Brick making	09	05.00	18	10.00	153	85.00
4	Labour in construction work	18	10.00	09	05.00	153	85.00
5	Domestic servant	0	0	09	05.00	171	95.00
6	Supervising job	09	05.00	0	0	171	95.00

were suggested which can be implemented for checking mobility of the tribal people from agriculture to non-agriculture sector. The literacy level should be enhanced among the tribal people to increase their efficiency and better understanding of the scientific agriculture. There should be more investment and creation of employment opportunity in agriculture sector to make it more remunerative which will also develop more number of entrepreneurs among tribal people.

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